

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. An extendable deck assembly for a seating area having multiple tiers, said extendable deck assembly comprising:

a base portion, said base portion having a lower surface, opposite walls and a cover plate, said cover plate extending across and between said opposite walls and defining an upper surface of said base portion, said base portion defining a cavity between said opposite walls and between said cover plate and said lower surface;

a deck portion, said deck portion being extendable and retractable between a retracted position, where said deck portion is positioned substantially within said cavity of said base portion, and an extended position, where said deck portion is at least partially extended from said base portion; and

a support assembly arranged in said cavity of said base portion, said support assembly comprising a fixed end attached to said base portion, a movable end attached to said deck portion and at least one movable support, said at least one movable support being movably engagable with said lower surface of said base portion and with said cover plate of said base portion, said at least one movable support being movable relative to said fixed end and being extendable and retractable when said deck portion is extended and retracted, said at least one movable support being configured to substantially support said cover plate when said deck portion is in said extended position.

2. The extendable deck assembly of claim 1, wherein said at least one movable support comprises a plurality of roller assemblies, each of said roller assemblies having at least one lower roller that rollingly engages said lower surface of said base portion and at least one upper roller that rollingly engages said cover plate.

3. The extendable deck assembly of claim 2, wherein said plurality of roller assemblies are telescopingly movable relative to one another, said roller assemblies being nested together when said deck portion is in said retracted position.

4. The extendable deck assembly of claim 3, wherein said roller assemblies comprise a pair of side assemblies, each side assembly having respective rollers comprising said at least

one upper roller and said at least one lower roller, said pair of side assemblies of each of said roller assemblies being connected together via a cross member.

5. The extendable deck assembly of claim 2, wherein said roller assemblies include a stop member, said stop members engaging one another to limit outward movement of said roller assemblies relative to one another.

6. The extendable deck assembly of claim 1 including a locking member that is positionable to substantially limit retraction of said deck portion when said deck portion is in said extended position.

7. The extendable deck assembly of claim 6, wherein said locking member comprises at least one hand rail mountable to and positionable at least partially along said deck portion.

8. The extendable deck assembly of claim 7, wherein said hand rail is configured to engage a receiving member at said base portion when said deck portion is in said extended position to limit retraction of said deck portion.

9. The extendable deck assembly of claim 1, wherein said deck portion is extendable and retractable relative to said base portion via a plurality of rollers on one of opposite sidewalls of said deck portion and said sidewalls of said base portion engaging a rail on the other of said sidewalls of said deck portion and said sidewalls of said base portion.

10. The extendable deck assembly of claim 1, wherein said sidewalls and said lower surface of said base portion comprise concrete and said cover plate comprises a metallic material.

11. A method for extending a deck portion at a seating area and for supporting a base portion cover when the deck portion is extended, said method comprising:

providing a base portion having a lower surface, opposite walls and a cover plate, said cover plate extending across and between said opposite walls and defining an upper surface of said base portion, said base portion defining a cavity between said opposite walls and between said cover plate and said lower surface;

providing a deck portion that is extendable and retractable between a retracted position, where said deck portion is positioned substantially within said cavity of said base portion, and an extended position, where said deck portion is at least partially extended from said base portion;

at least partially supporting said cover plate of said base portion with said deck portion when said deck portion is in said retracted position; and

extending said deck portion and supporting said cover plate of said base portion with a movable support assembly when said deck portion is at least partially extended from said base portion.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein supporting said cover plate comprises supporting said cover plate with a movable support assembly arranged in said cavity of said base portion and inward of said deck portion, said movable support assembly being movably engagable with said lower surface of said base portion and said cover plate of said base portion when said deck portion is extended.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein supporting said cover plate comprises supporting said cover plate with at least one wheeled support assembly arranged in said cavity of said base portion and inward of said deck portion.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one wheeled support assembly comprises at least one lower wheel that rollingly engages said lower surface of said base portion and at least one upper wheel that rollingly engages said cover plate as said deck portion is extended and retracted relative to said base portion.

15. The method of claim 11 including locking said deck portion in said extended position.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein locking said deck portion comprises locking said deck portion relative to said base portion with a side guard rail assembly that is positionable between mounting portions of said deck portion and said base portion when said deck portion is extended.

17. An extendable deck assembly for a seating area having multiple tiers, said extendable deck assembly comprising:

a base portion, said base portion having a lower surface, opposite walls and a cover plate, said cover plate extending across and between said opposite walls and defining an upper surface of said base portion, said base portion defining a cavity between said opposite walls and between said cover plate and said lower surface;

a deck portion, said deck portion being extendable and retractable between a retracted position, where said deck portion is positioned substantially within said cavity of said base portion, and an extended position, where said deck portion is at least partially extended from said base portion, said deck portion providing support to said cover plate when said deck portion is in said retracted position; and

a support assembly arranged in said cavity, said support assembly comprising a fixed end attached to said base portion, a movable end attached to said deck portion and a plurality of roller assemblies between said fixed end and said movable end, each of said roller assemblies having a lower roller that rollingly engages said lower surface of said base portion and an upper roller that rollingly engages said cover plate, said roller assemblies being movable relative to said fixed end and being extendable and retractable when said deck portion is extended and retracted, said roller assemblies being configured to substantially support said cover plate when said deck portion is in said extended position.

18. The extendable deck assembly of claim 17, wherein said movable end comprises an outer roller assembly.

19. The extendable deck assembly of claim 17, wherein said fixed end comprises an inner roller assembly.

20. The extendable deck assembly of claim 17, wherein said plurality of roller assemblies are telescopingly movable relative to one another, said movable roller assemblies being nested together when said deck portion is retracted.

21. The extendable deck assembly of claim 20, wherein said roller assemblies comprise a pair of side assemblies, each side assembly having said upper roller and said lower roller, said pair of side assemblies of each of said roller assemblies being connected together via a cross member.

22. The extendable deck assembly of claim 21, wherein said cross members of each of said plurality of roller assemblies have different lengths, whereby each of said plurality of roller assemblies has a different width defined by the respective cross member, said roller assemblies having widths that are greater than the next outer roller assembly.

23. The extendable deck assembly of claim 17, wherein said roller assemblies comprise a pair of upper rollers that engage said cover plate and a pair of lower rollers that engage said lower surface.

24. The extendable deck assembly of claim 17, wherein said rollers assemblies include a stop member, said stop members engaging one another to limit outward movement of said roller assemblies relative to one another.

25. The extendable deck assembly of claim 17 including a locking member that is positionable to substantially limit retraction of said deck portion when said deck portion is in said extended position.

26. The extendable deck assembly of claim 25, wherein said locking member comprises at least one hand rail mountable to and positionable at least partially along said deck portion and engagable with said base portion when said deck portion is in said extended position.

27. An extendable deck assembly or platform for a seating area having multiple tiers, said extendable deck assembly comprising:

a base portion, said base portion having a lower surface, opposite walls and a cover plate, said cover plate extending across and between said opposite walls and defining an upper surface of said base portion, said base portion defining a cavity between said opposite walls and between said cover plate and said lower surface;

a deck portion, said deck portion being extendable and retractable between a retracted position, where said deck portion is positioned substantially within said cavity, and an extended position, where said deck portion is at least partially extended from said base portion;

a support assembly arranged in said cavity, said support assembly comprising at least one movable support, said at least one movable support being movable relative to said base portion and being extendable and retractable with said deck portion, said at least one movable

support being configured to substantially support said cover plate when said deck portion is extended; and

    a locking assembly for limiting retraction of said extendable deck portion relative to said base portion when said deck portion is in said extended position.

28.    The extendable deck assembly of claim 27, wherein said locking assembly comprises a side guard rail assembly that is positionable at least partially along a side of said deck portion and is engagable with a mounting portion at said deck portion and a mounting portion at said base portion when said deck portion is in said extended position.

29.    The extendable deck assembly of claim 28, wherein said side guard rail assembly is adjustably mountable at said deck portion and is adjustable to be positioned at least partially along a side of said deck portion and toward said base portion when said deck portion is in said extended position.

30.    The extendable deck assembly of claim 27, wherein said at least one movable support comprises at least one roller assembly having a lower roller that rollingly engages said lower surface of said base portion and an upper roller that rollingly engages said cover plate.

31.    The extendable deck assembly of claim 27, wherein said deck portion at least partially supports said cover plate when said deck portion is in said retracted position.